

Washington, D.C. – The U.S. House of Representatives' Fiscal Year 2008 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill commits \$800,000 to support a bold energy efficient, environmentally sustainable design for Minnesota's new Museum of Natural History on the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota. Congresswoman Betty McCollum (D-MN) and the rest of the House Committee on Appropriations unanimously approved the \$31.6 billion bill yesterday.

The "Advanced Green Design" funding secured by Congresswoman McCollum will support next-generation design elements including a green roof, rooftop solar panels, solar shade tracking systems, native landscaping to reduce water runoff, geothermal heat pump technology and on-site wind energy generation. Once completed, the museum building will serve to educate the public about "green building" and spur sustainable construction throughout Minnesota.

The Energy and Water Appropriation also provides \$100,000 for the Army Corps of Engineers to perform maintenance on the downtown St. Paul segment of the Mississippi River. These funds will support planning, dredging and removal of dredged materials from the lower harbor at Harriet Island.

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